

BISON MANAGEMENT IN MONTANA

It is the intent of the Montana Association of Counties to support the designation of bison introduced into areas of the state not currently populated by bison as domestic livestock to be managed by the Montana Department of Livestock.

WHEREAS, bison in Yellowstone Park area have been diagnosed with brucellosis; and

WHEREAS, bison leaving the park have created numerous management problems for the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, Any future distribution of bison would only increase the problems; and

WHEREAS, The only protection from diseased bison to the citizens, wildlife, open space and the Montana livestock industry, has been from the Montana Department of Livestock.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Counties supports the Montana Department of Livestock as the best agency to manage bison that are introduced into areas currently not populated by these species; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, In the area of Montana not covered by the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP), MACo supports the designation of any bison as domestic livestock managed by the Montana Department of Livestock.

SPONSOR: Districts 1, 2 & 3

RECOMMENDATION: Do Pass

PRIORITY: High

REFERRED TO: Agriculture Committee
Public Lands Committee

ADOPTED: Annual Conference, Hamilton, MT September 24, 2008